

Read this Summary First of All

Abbreviations:

CTCR: The Commission on Theology and Church Relations of the Lutheran Church

LCMS: Missouri Synod LCMS: The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

If you have run quickly through the listing of my articles, you may already have concluded that, not only do I believe the universe is billions of years old, but I also have an arrogant need to badger others to believe just like I do. Yet I deny that. For example, I agree with young-earth creationists (YECs) that the God of the Bible (in whom I too fully believe) has the power to create the universe, not only in six literal 24-hour days and less than ten thousand years ago, should that be His wish, He could also do so in an instant! So why then do I not embrace the YEC position? It is for four reasons that are entirely consistent with my belief in the infallibility of the Bible. Indeed I am convinced that the Bible is God's revealed Word to humans (2 Timothy 3:16, Hebrews 1:1-3).

1. The text of Genesis chapter 1 as a whole, yields many indicators that the universe is ancient in comparison with human lifespans.
2. There are many indicators from *nature* (entirely independent of Darwinian theory) that the cosmos is exceedingly old when measured against human experience of human time spans.
3. The Bible expects us to take the testimony of nature (today known as *scientific* knowledge) at face value. Indeed, it never demands that humans pit scientific knowledge against His revealed Word as though the Bible gets to trump knowable scientific truths.
4. Furthermore the Bible insists on our adherence to truth in the classical meaning that assertions about reality of any kind are obligated to reconcile with the known facts of their referent and not vice-versa. This is called the "correspondence view" of truth. It places believers in the Bible in exactly the same place as it does scientific-hypothesizers with respect to the *actual* evidence.

An article that well summarizes the above points is found in my document, "Could Noah Do a Global Flood?," below. Other documents that specifically make my points from the Biblical texts include:

- A. "Sixteen Clues from the Text of Genesis ch. 1."
- B. "The Biblical Demand to Take Another Look," which is more extensive than *Sixteen Clues...*
- C. "Big Bang Cosmology Completely Harmonizes with Genesis 1:1."

I desired during my entire time in the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod to engage with both my fellow pastors and also the hierarchy over the question of what do the Scriptures actually teach about the age of creation. Sadly, that goal never was fulfilled. Yet I also ask you to notice from the roster below that I ALSO desire to see secularists of any stripe reconsider the available evidence so that they come to know the lavishness of God's grace for any and all who will come to Him.

On the other hand, you may have noticed two additional fronts which I seek to challenge too which include firstly philosophical skepticism with respect to *belief in* God and activist secularism which rejects theistic values and principles with respect to public policy and political strategy. Both of these categories are interrelated. In regard to the first category my strategy is to argue that the empirical evidence, either scientific or historical, depending on the context that I am addressing. In regard to the latter, my strategy is to highlight that Leftism not only fails to reconcile with the real world, but also that it chronically contradicts its very own self-acclaimed principles.